

White Mountain Zone



White Mountain Zone (WMZ)
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Potato Fire

Information Office: 928-333-6336 Date: June 13, 2006 9:00 pm

* The Potato Complex originally consisted of four lightning fires that were situated in close proximity to each other. Currently only the Potato Fire is active.

LOCATION: The Potato Fire is 10 miles Northwest of Heber-Overgaard

STARTED: June 6, 2006, at 1330 hrs.

SIZE: About 6,000 Acres **CONTAINMENT:** 40%

FUELS: Burning in ponderosa pine, grass understory and pinyon juniper; drought killed pinyon pine is helping to feed this fire.

OBJECTIVES: Firefighter safety, protection of private property and protection of the power lines are primary objectives. Protection of cultural resources and cost containment are also objectives

CONCERNS: The Chevelon Retreat and Chevelon Acres subdivisions are threatened and are about 3/4 mile from the fire front. The primary access to the subdivision is closed. Some subdivision residents have evacuated. The large power line is within this fire area and has been de-energized several times. This power line supplies power to the Phoenix and Tucson area. There is also concern for wildlife and cultural resources.

RESOURCES: There are about 294 personnel committed to this fire. The Eastern Arizona Incident Management Team is assigned.

SUMMARY: The fire increased in size on the west and north flanks, burning under a major powerline. The containment line protecting the private lands held throughout today's burning period. Crews were pulled off a division on the west flank when conditions became too dangerous for operations. A structure protection group is in place at the private land boundary. The east flank of the fire stayed relatively calm; a few spots outside the line were lined. Smoke was heavy over much of the fire at mid-afternoon.

In anticipation of dry, windy weather and the threat to private homes and property, this incident is scheduled to receive priority for aerial suppression aircraft tomorrow. Tonight crews and dozers will work to improve the northern portion of the containment line and also construct new line on the west flank.

The receiving area for the evacuees is the Capps Elementary School located 2 blocks South of Hwy. 260 on Buckskin Road in Heber. Livestock belonging to the evacuees have been transported to the Navajo County Fair grounds. There

are about 26 people staying in the Chevelon Retreat at this time and 26 people staying in the shelter. The Navajo County Emergency Operations Center has evacuation and emergency assistance information at (928) 524-4200.

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